

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CU SOLAR DECATHLON TEAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the talented group of students who make up the 2007 University of Colorado Solar Decathlon team. These students participated in the Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon competition earlier this month.

The Solar Decathlon is a competition organized by the Department of Energy that gives college students an opportunity to demonstrate practical uses of solar power. This October, 20 university teams from around the country and the world competed in the third Solar Decathlon to build the most energy-efficient, solar-powered house. Each team was required to use solar energy to power the entire house, and was judged on how well its house was able to produce energy for heating, cooling, hot water, lighting, appliances, computers, and charging an electric car. The houses were also critiqued on their overall aesthetic design.

The University of Colorado team designed a fully livable 700 square foot house for the competition and will complete the house with an addition of 1400 square feet with 3 additional bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a breakfast nook, and additional living space. As I toured this remarkable house on the Mall this past week, I was impressed by its modern functionality and the sustainable sources from which it was constructed. I was also impressed with the intelligence and curiosity of the team members that gave me the tour—these students will be among the leaders of engineers and architects guiding our next generation in renewable energy use and production.

This team follows in a strong tradition of entrants from the University of Colorado, which took first overall in the previous two competitions. I want to recognize and congratulate Chad Corbin and Professor Michael J. Brandemuehl, the student and faculty leaders that spearheaded this project, in addition to the many other undergraduate and graduate architecture, engineering, and business students at CU who helped design and build this house. Xcel Energy has already purchased this astonishing house to use as a permanent facility for research, education, and outreach for sustainable living once the competition is over.

These enterprising students from the University of Colorado had a challenge—to take advanced architectural and engineering concepts, put them together in a design, and build a house that could be a model of our energy future. These students met that challenge—and I'm proud of these students and I'm proud that the University of Colorado produced such

a talented team. Most of all, I am proud to represent these young people who are working so hard to make our way of life a sustainable one.

RECOGNIZING PAULA ROWSE BUONOMO

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Paula Rowse Buonomo of Shrewsbury, MA. Paula has dedicated her working life to helping the people of the Third Congressional District in Massachusetts. In recognition of that work, she has been selected to receive the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

Paula has worked for me in my district office in Worcester for the past 10 years. During her stay, she had helped numerous constituents deal with issues associated with Social Security, health care, education, and poverty. She has always been there to lend a helping hand to people in their most desperate times.

Paula has lent her talent to numerous non-profit organizations as well. She serves as a board member of the Worcester County Food Bank, is a member of the Food Advisory Council for the city of Worcester, and is a steering committee participant for the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts grant, "Ending Hunger in Worcester." Paula's effort to end the problem of hunger and poverty is one that we all should aspire to.

A lifelong resident of Shrewsbury, MA, with her husband, Jim, and two grown children, Megan and James, Paula has been a visible face in her community. She served on the Shrewsbury School Committee for two terms and worked on several Proposition 2½ overrides in support of the Shrewsbury public school system.

As someone who has witnessed Paula's tireless work firsthand, I can say that this award could have not gone to a better person. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in honoring Paula Buonomo for receiving this award.

MYANMAR'S MILITARY DICTATORSHIP

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, last month a group of students and Buddhist monks led a peaceful protest against the government of Myanmar for its decision to cut fuel subsidies, leading to a 100 percent increase in fuel prices. The military stepped in, firing into the

crowds which left at least 10 people dead. By the end of the crackdown, almost 3,000 people had been detained. In response, many countries around the world condemned the violent way in which the government dealt with the protesters. Even China, Myanmar's closest ally, gave its support to the U.N. mission to resolve the crisis.

This is not the first case of violence against innocent people in Myanmar. In 1988, a crackdown on protesters left almost 3,000 dead. The military junta has been ruling the poverty-stricken country of Myanmar for over 45 years and since then has clashed with pro-democracy groups and has been responsible for the abuse and displacement of a variety of ethnic groups.

The thousands of protesters who lined the streets of Myanmar make it clear that people want democracy. Let us not forget that for the anti-democratic extremists who we frequently see in the news, there are thousands of people who peacefully live their lives, hoping for democracy to take over. The United States presence in many of these countries serves as a reminder that they are not alone. We are there to help and to show that democracy does work. We need to step up our efforts and our presence, especially in poverty-stricken and war ravaged countries in East Asia and Africa, to help end human rights abuses and encourage democracy.

And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL MONTH OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in 2006, the American Planning Association—known as APA—declared October "National Month of Community Planning" to encourage the visibility of planning efforts in communities throughout the United States. During this month, we recognize the many individuals—the local officials, business leaders, and planners—that have contributed to the planning profession, making some of the great communities we have today. For example, in Highland Park, Illinois, Mayor Michael Belsky publicly thanked the City's planning staff for their dedication via the local newspaper. In Urbana, Illinois, the Planning Film Festival highlights different cities and their efforts to work with their city halls to design better neighborhoods.

The theme for this year's celebration is: "Great Streets, Great Neighborhoods." This theme acknowledges three particular building blocks of great communities: streets, neighborhoods, and the people who make communities unique. As part of this effort, APA celebrates excellence in planning via its "Great Places in America" program, recognizing both great streets and great neighborhoods across our country. I am proud to say that one of these

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

"Great Streets" is North Michigan Avenue that stands in the 7th District of Illinois which I currently represent. West Urbana, Illinois, also received the distinction of being a "Great Neighborhood."

As I close, I want to recognize APA as a non-profit public interest and research organization devoted to promoting quality planning. Since its founding in 1978, it has served more than 41,000 members. I honor the National Month of Community Planning and the efforts of planners to pioneer concepts that influence our communities both now and in the future.

HONORING THE VISITATION SCHOOL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Visitation School has been a presence in the Kingsbridge community since its inception in 1932, and was approved by the Archdiocese of New York in 1928, under the direction of the first pastor, Monsignor Stafford.

Visitation School was initially staffed by the Sisters of Charity; their motherhouse was and remains today on the grounds of the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, New York.

The first Principal of Visitation was Sister Mary Angelita Meiswinkle of the Sisters of Charity, who was principal from 1932 to 1949. She set the firm foundation for this Roman Catholic elementary school that continues to flourish as we celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary.

In 1980 the current principal, Sr. Rosemarie Connell, was appointed. She oversaw a time of sweeping change, with an emphasis on strong religious principles, discipline, and a commitment to academic excellence. In her long tenure, she has created and maintained a dedicated and experienced teaching staff made up of Catholic laypersons and religious sisters representing several communities, including the Sisters of Charity, Sparkill Dominican Sisters, and School Sisters of Notre Dame.

She established a full-time kindergarten; weekly computer classes for kindergarten through grade eight; high school advanced-placement programs for math and Spanish; science lab; a state-of-the-art computer lab; and the institution of an after school program.

In 1995, the New York City Council recognized her for her "continuing dedication and service to the education and improvement of the lives of Bronx children and their families." In the year 2000, she received the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Compassionate Educator Award for her years of service to children in the Archdiocese of New York.

For 75 years, the Kingsbridge community has benefited from the presence of Visitation School as it continues its great legacy of faith and determination to deliver a quality Catholic education to children in the community. Visitation School remains a rare place where mind, heart, and spirit grow in grace and strive for excellence.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. PATRICIA
SHIMMENS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine who has spent her entire career serving her fellow citizens. Mrs. Patricia Shimmens, the Executive Director of the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission, is retiring after three decades of public service.

Patricia, or Pat, as her friends call her, has been a stalwart advocate for those in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Counties who most need help. As the Executive Director to the Housing Commission, she oversees the administration of 250 units of public housing and 50 housing choice vouchers. She also administers several other programs that assist the homeless in Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac Counties.

Throughout her long and illustrious career, Pat has enjoyed many achievements and accomplishments. Under her watch, in 1996 and 1998, the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission built two new developments equaling 50 single family units. In 2001, Pat spearheaded the drive to find housing for the homeless in Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Counties. In that capacity she coordinates services to the homeless, including shelter and opportunities for self-sufficiency to and through the Tri-County Safe Haven Emergency Shelter.

Pat has been a leader in the housing field, participating in organizations that advocate for affordable housing both nationally and in Michigan. For 23 years, she has been a member of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), the nation's leading housing and community development advocacy group. She has been a member of the Michigan Housing Director's Association for 15 years and Past President for 4 years.

Pat has been involved in numerous other organizations as well. She is a former President of her local Business and Professional Women's Organization. She recently sat on the Commission for Labor and Economic Growth in conjunction with the Local Work Force Development Board for the Tri-County area. She currently serves as the President of the Northern Transitions Inc. which provides services to the developmentally disabled.

Over the years, Pat has been recognized in many ways for her commitment to community. In 2005, she received the ATHENA award, which recognizes excellence and leadership in women who contribute time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community.

Pat first brought her talents and tireless energy to the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission on November 1, 1982. But, even before joining the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission, Pat was dedicated to strengthening the eastern U.P. Prior to her time with the Housing Commission, she was employed for 8 years with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Employment and Training Consortium. Throughout the years Pat has developed a reputation as a passionate advocate for housing and homelessness issues. When a new rule, regulation or law affecting public housing authori-

ties would come down, Pat was known for being quite vocal at public housing authority conferences. Those who know her say that when she was arguing forcefully for or against something, it was best to stay out of her way and let her say her piece. In one instance, she gave a lengthy, impassioned and forceful argument regarding rules affecting the ownership of pets in public housing authorities.

After she completed her argument, the conference leaders asked, "Do you feel better now?"

In a manner typical of Pat's straightforward demeanor, she replied, "Yes, thank you, damn it!"

While her tenure at the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission has been marked by many financial and administrative successes, what Pat says she will miss most are the people with whom she has developed relationships.

As Pat recently put it in her own words, "Many children have passed through our doors and I would like to think their life was just a little bit better having a nice home to live in that was also affordable."

Madam Speaker, over the last 30 years, countless families in Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac Counties have relied upon the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Commission. All of them can thank Mrs. Patricia Shimmens for her hard work, passionate advocacy and tireless dedication to helping make life just a little better. As Mrs. Shimmens celebrates retirement, I wish her the best of luck as she has more time to spend with her husband, Bob and more time to garden, and enjoy the outdoors. Given her tireless spirit, I also expect that she will continue her volunteer work throughout the eastern U.P. community.

Today, I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking Patricia Shimmens for 30 years of public service and congratulating her on a well deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH RICCA

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Joseph Ricca of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Mr. Ricca has worked tirelessly for our community and because of that work has been selected to receive the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

A product of the Shrewsbury public school system, Mr. Ricca still resides in town with his wife, Mary Ann and 8-year-old son, Joseph Peter. He graduated with a B.A. in State and Local Government from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and later went on to receive his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Anna Maria College. After school, he joined the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office serving numerous positions until being named Chief of Staff in 1987.

In 1988, Mr. Ricca began work for the Dukakis for President Committee. During the campaign, Joe was responsible for campaign activities in Iowa, New York, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. He later used this experience to

work as Senior Staff Director for the Gore and Kerry Presidential Campaigns. In addition to these national campaigns, Joe also has been elected delegate to numerous Democratic State and National Conventions.

Mr. Ricca has had great success in the private sector as well. After starting his own firm, Ricca and Associates, he joined the Dewey Square Group, which is considered by many to be one of the leading communication/consulting firms in the country.

I commend my friend, Joe Ricca who has dedicated his life for the betterment of his community and our country. His commitment to public service helps all of us. In tribute to his tireless work and dedication, I congratulate Mr. Joseph Ricca on receiving this award. I know all of my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to him today.

HONORING MARVIN CARUTHERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions that Dr. Marvin Caruthers has made to the advancement of science. I would like to thank him on behalf of all Coloradans for the gifts he has made in this field.

Dr. Caruthers' impressive career began when he received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Iowa State University. He went on to earn a doctorate in biochemistry from Northwestern University and complete his post-doctoral studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After becoming a research scientist at the University of Wisconsin and MIT he decided to settle in Colorado.

In the 1980s, Dr. Caruthers' laboratory developed methods to speed up the chemical synthesis of DNA. This advancement led to the sequencing of the human genome, which allows us to study diseases, solve criminal cases more efficiently and will lead to better medical treatments.

Dr. Caruthers' contributions have extended far beyond his lab. He helped found the biotechnology company, Applied Molecular Genetics (AMG). AMG has since become the largest biotechnology company in the world. AMG introduced two of the first biologically derived human therapeutics, which helps better the lives of patients suffering from chronic kidney disease and cancer. The company has gone on to make advancements in treating anemia, rheumatoid arthritis and many other diseases. Dr. Caruthers also co-founded another impressive organization, Applied Biosystems, which has revolutionized research in the pharmaceutical industry.

I want to acknowledge Dr. Caruthers for his generous gift to support the Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology Program at the University of Colorado. Dr. Caruthers has taught chemistry and biochemistry at the University for the past 34 years. He wants to ensure that biomedical students will continue to do groundbreaking work. His recent financial contribution is the largest gift ever contributed by a University of Colorado faculty member and will undoubtedly lead to significant advancements.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Dr.

Marvin Caruthers for his dedication to the advancement of biotechnology. I wish him success in all his future endeavors.

TEXAS BLACK GOLD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, 77 years ago, during the month of October, the biggest known oil field in the world was discovered in east Texas by Alabama wildcatter C.M. "Dad" Joiner. The nearby towns of Kilgore and Gladewater became bustling boom towns practically over night as thousands of people moved in trying to get their share. By the next year, the wells in the field were producing over 900,000 barrels of oil a day. When all was said and done, the oil field spanned over 40 miles and contained more than 30,000 wells in all. The discovery of oil in the State attracted hundreds of independent oil companies to the area, pushing Texas into the industrial world for the first time.

Oil is still an important part of the Texas economy, but times have changed. Now the largest oil fields are in the Middle East, which means America is dependent on foreign countries for its oil. The increased tension and turmoil in that region only reinforces the importance of decreasing our dependency on foreign countries for a resource that in the year 2007 we can't live without.

We need to continue to look at alternative and renewable energy sources to decrease our reliance on oil. We need to continue to search for oil in our own backyard to reduce our need to work with countries that don't have our best interest in mind. We need to protect our oil companies at home. We need to do these things so that our future generations aren't living the consequences of our inactions.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL FITZGERALD, BUSINESS MANAGER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 134

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good husband, a good father, a good friend, a good son, and a good man; who devoted his life to his family, to his union and to his work on behalf of the working people throughout the world. Madam Speaker, Michael Fitzgerald was a third-generation electrician who joined Local 134 in December of 1974. He was appointed special assistant to the business manager in 1991 prior to being elected as business manager in 1995, where he served until 2006. He served on the executive board of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and as its second vice-president. He also served as vice president of the Chicago Cook County Building Trades Coun-

cil, and served as chairman and as president of the Illinois State Conference of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Under Michael's leadership, Local 134 continued the tradition of strong and aggressive growth and has become one of the largest and most influential Electricians locals in North America, with over 17,000 members.

At the 36th Convention of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Michael Fitzgerald served as Secretary to the Law Committee at the 37th Convention. In addition, Michael Fitzgerald was active in many other civic and community endeavors. He served on the Mayor's Zoning Reform Commission from 2000 to 2004, and on the Illinois Medical Center Commission from 1998 until his death. He was president of the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center for abused children from 1999 to 2005, and on the executive committee of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, which governs the activities at Navy Pier and the McCormick Place complex from 2001 through 2005. Michael was also an attorney and member of the American Bar Association and the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association.

Michael Fitzgerald gained recognition for his outstanding work and commitment to humankind. He was named Man of the Year by several organizations including, The Coalition for United Community Action, 1996; Irish American Alliance, 1997; Maritime Trades and The Greater Chicago and Vicinity Port Council, 1998; Hispanic Electricians Alliance, 1999; Italian American Labor Council, 2001; and The Anti-Defamation League, 2001. He also received the Rerun Novarum Award for Labor from the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1999. He served as a member of the board of directors of Amalgamated Bank of Chicago and was appointed to the Catholic Charities Advisory Board. He has been recognized for his commitment to St. Xavier University in 2007; Mayor Richard M. Daley presented Mr. Fitzgerald with the John E. Rooney Corporate Hero Award for his tireless efforts on behalf of the city of Chicago Children's Advocacy Center.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife and their two children, Marty and Sarah.

Madam Speaker, the steps of a good man are ordered and directed by the Lord.

Michael Fitzgerald was a good man; may his soul rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO CHEBOYGAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an important institution in my district that serves the health care needs of the people of northern Michigan. Next week, Cheboygan Memorial Hospital (CMH) will celebrate 65 years of service to northern Michigan residents.

Cheboygan Memorial Hospital traces its history back to 1929, when a group of local citizens united in an effort to build the first community hospital in Cheboygan. This small, but committed, group of volunteers collaborated to raise funding for a hospital in Cheboygan.

Their efforts ultimately paid off in 1942 when Community Memorial Hospital, as it was then called, opened its doors.

Throughout its history, CMH has often had to overcome challenges that health care providers in major metropolitan areas do not face. Rural health care providers like CMH often have more difficulty recruiting staff. They also serve a larger geographical area than their counterparts in more urban areas. Despite these challenges, over the years CMH has developed into a first-class health care facility, offering excellent health care services to my constituents.

Today, CMH is a 96-bed general hospital with 46 beds for medical and surgical patients, including a four-bed intensive care unit and a six-room Family Life Obstetric Center. CMH also offers emergency care, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The hospital's urgent care walk-in clinic is also open every day in the health center.

CMH also offers both inpatient and outpatient services in surgery, laboratory, cardiopulmonary, X-ray, nuclear medicine diagnostic ultrasound, CT scanning, MRI, mammography, bone densitometry, and physical therapy. The hospital's medical staff includes specialists in the areas of anesthesiology, cardiology, emergency medicine, dermatology, family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, neurology, otolaryngology, pediatrics, oncology, urology, radiology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, oral surgery and pathology.

The hospital has also dedicated a great deal of effort and time towards educating members of the community about important health issues. CMH offers several free classes in smoking cessation and in diabetes education. Childbirth education classes have also been recently re-introduced, providing important education to expecting parents.

CMH has registered pharmacists on staff at CMH and available around the clock. The hospital houses audiology and speech therapy services.

Thanks to generous donations and support from the community, the hospital continues to improve, with several recent additions. The hospital recently updated their Intensive Care Unit Family Waiting Room. The hospital also enjoys a newly expanded Nurses' Station. Remodeling work and technology updates are also being made in the Radiology Department. Other projects to help grow and improve the hospital remain on the horizon, including plans for developing a Cardiac Wellness Center.

CMH describes its own greatest asset as the dedicated men and women who work in the hospital to care for their friends and neighbors. The hospital is currently the largest employer in Cheboygan County with over 500 employees on the payroll.

Throughout the years, the hospital's leadership has set the tone of excellence that defines CMH. Today, the hospital is led by President and CEO Barbara Cliff; Board of Trustees Chair Michael Konicki; and the President of their Medical Staff David Dram, M.D.

In addition to the hospital's 500 employees, who make caring for their neighbors and friends their daily business, the hospital enjoys the support of many tireless volunteers and auxiliary members. Anyone who has spent any length of time in a hospital can attest that the quality of the experience can hinge on the attitude of the caregivers. Those receiving care at

Cheboygan Memorial Hospital are treated by professionals with positive attitudes and warm, kindly demeanors.

Madam Speaker, this year CMH is celebrating "65 Years of Caring." As this institution celebrates 65 years of service to my constituents, I would salute its employees—past and present—the people who make the hospital the excellent caregiver that it is. I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing the fine work of CMH and paying tribute to this important northern Michigan health care provider.

RECOGNIZING EMILY PEEPLES

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Emily Peeples of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. A talented and intelligent young woman, Emily has been named one of the recipients for the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Youth Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

A graduate of Shrewsbury High School, Emily was active in all parts of high school life. She was an officer of the Young Democrats in addition to other groups, and was on volleyball and lacrosse teams. She was elected to Anti-Defamation League Interfaith Youth Leadership Camp, which teaches acceptance and community involvement. Emily also achieved the Silver Award for Girl Scouts during her time in high school.

Now a freshman at the University of Wisconsin, Emily is continuing her involvement. She has joined the College Democrats, the Campus Liaisons, and is running as a freshman representative to the student council.

I would like to take this moment to wish Emily luck on her campaign and ask my colleagues to help me honor her for winning this award.

HONORING NATIONAL HIRSCHFELD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of National Hirschfeld Press, Inc. in Denver, Colorado. National Hirschfeld is the largest digital and commercial printing company in the western United States.

National Hirschfeld was opened in 1907 by A.B. Hirschfeld with only a \$35 hand press, which still sits in their lobby today. Only 19 years old at the time, A.B. Hirschfeld used his experience from working at his brother's print shop in Cincinnati to make National Hirschfeld a success.

The company eventually became a family business, spanning three generations, all of which have contributed greatly to the economic and social fabric of Colorado. A.B. Hirschfeld's son, Edward, carried on the family tradition, and started working at the store when he was 15 years old. Now, A.B.

Hirschfeld is run by the third generation of printers, represented by Barry Hirschfeld. In December 2005, this family-owned printing store expanded by merging with two other printing companies to become National Hirschfeld.

Through the years, National Hirschfeld has made significant contributions to Colorado. The company has published inaugural programs for the Denver Bears, the Denver Broncos and the Colorado Rockies.

The Hirschfeld family has also been involved in many philanthropic efforts in Denver. They are a genuine all-American success story.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging National Hirschfeld and their employees for their commitment to uniquely serving their community. I congratulate all of them and wish the company another 100 years of success.

THE FREE SPEECH HYPOCRISY AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it's Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week. This week involves events on college and university campuses across the Nation to promote awareness of the ideology that motivates terrorist groups like al Qaeda and Hamas.

While this event has sparked free speech debates on college campuses across the country, it has also revealed hypocrisies that exist in "free speech."

On October 8th, antiwar student activists covered the George Washington University campus with anti-Muslim posters. We now know that this was a hoax targeted at conservative student-members of the Young America's Foundation. Right after the posters appeared on the campus, the George Washington University Student Association Vice President, Brand Kroeger said he "would support expulsion" of the responsible students.

The George Washington University Administration brought the conservative students into its office, presumed the students were guilty, and pressured the students to sign a statement disavowing hate speech. The students refused to sign the statement and said they were innocent. The students were then dragged before a university "peace forum" and subjected to heckles from their fellow students. After all of this, 7 antiwar activist students took responsibility. These 7 students said the entire event was just a hoax. Guess what happened to the 7 responsible students? Nothing! No disciplinary action at all! The hypocrisy at American universities is appalling. If you are a liberal student, you can say anything. If you are a conservative student, you are denied free speech by the public university.

It seems that if you have one viewpoint, universities will punish and ridicule you, but if you agree with the universities, you'll be able to say whatever you want. There doesn't seem to be any equal opportunity in free speech on college campuses.

Colleges and universities preach liberal viewpoints without presenting the other side.

The politically correct nature of our higher education sparked the creation of Islamo-Fascism Week.

During this week, students on college campuses across America will host events to educate students on issues that are not addressed inside of the classroom. The events include "teach in" panels and sit-ins on Women's Studies Department classes, to protest the absence of courses that focus on the oppression of women in Islam.

Islamic oppression of women will be the key focus of this week. In one horrific example of Islamic oppression, young Islamic schoolgirls were shot to death in Saudi Arabia when they fled a burning building without their veils. In another example, an Islamic teenager was buried before being stoned to death for alleged sexual offenses.

The Muslim American Society is protesting this week of events. The Society claims that this event is hate speech and promotes intolerance of Muslims. This isn't true. The event promotes awareness and intolerance of radical Muslim extremists and rightfully so. These extremists want to kill Americans. We should be intolerant of them.

Muslim extremists are responsible for 9/11, for the USS *Cole* bombing, for Embassy bombings, and they target our soldiers abroad. We also know that Islamo-Fascists have waged a jihad, or a holy war, against America.

The term "Islamofascism" is not hate speech. It is not degrading to all Muslims. It degrades radical Muslim extremists. The term "Italian Fascism" doesn't smear all Italians. It smears radical Italian extremists. There is a difference between Muslims and radical Jihadists, who seek to destroy and murder people indiscriminately.

Islamofascism Awareness Week is a wake-up call for American students. Our classrooms need to stop worrying about political correctness and start educating our students on the truth. The truth is that radical Muslim extremists are the greatest danger that exists for Americans at home and abroad. The truth is that women are oppressed by Islamic extremists. The truth is that we need to stop garnering sympathy for the enemy and start confronting those against America.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS RHINE POST 2729 ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the VFW Rhine Post 2729 of Chicago as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. Through their dedicated and unwavering service to their community and their country, the veterans of the Rhine Post continue a strong tradition of patriotism and duty.

When the Rhine Post received its charter on October 29, 1932, it was made up of a group of 21 World War I veterans. With great determination and hard work, this handful of men managed to keep the organization afloat through the Great Depression, distinguishing themselves with their patriotic events and displays.

After World War II, the Rhine Post experienced an influx of veterans as the remaining 16 members focused on recruitment and membership. When the group was over 100 strong, they realized the need for a new hall. With industry and diligence, they purchased vacant property and in 1955 completed their new building. The Rhine Post on South Archer Avenue continues to serve today as a community landmark and as a place of camaraderie for our Nation's heroes.

Throughout their long history, the veterans of Rhine Post 2729 have taken pride in their championship senior rifle and drill team, which won seven consecutive championships. Service to their community has also been a great source of pride, as the Rhine Post hosted Memorial Day Parades along Archer Avenue for many years. The Rhine Post continues their worthy tradition of community service by sponsoring the Voice of Democracy scholarship program, visiting hospitalized veterans, distributing American flags, and assisting senior citizens whenever possible.

I rise today to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Rhine Post 2729 on their 75th anniversary. Through their staunch patriotism and outstanding contributions to their community, the veterans of the Rhine Post nobly continue the legacy of service they began when they first answered the call of duty. I commend them for their ongoing community work and their courageous service to our country in time of war. I am honored that my district is home to such an exceptional organization, and I am proud to congratulate them on their 75th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JASON PALITSCH

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jason Palitsch of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Jason's enthusiasm for the political process has led to his selection to receive the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Youth Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

Currently a freshman at Northeastern University, Jason has already become active in politics. He is the president of the "Northeastern for Hillary" group and will become Political Director of the College Democrats group in the spring.

Jason's political activism began while he was a student at Shrewsbury High School. While there, he co-founded and was the first president of the Shrewsbury High School Young Democrats club. He was also a member and officer of numerous other student organizations during his 4 years at Shrewsbury High School, including Amnesty International, Political Action Group, Student Council, and the student newspaper.

Jason is a passionate and likable young man who has a bright future in whatever profession he chooses to work in. I congratulate Jason on this award and his enthusiasm for politics.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIUS CIACCIA, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Julius Ciaccia, Jr., who recently retired after dedicating over 30 years of service to the city of Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Ciaccia began his career in city government in 1976, and served the city with distinction until his retirement.

I am particularly proud to be honoring Mr. Ciaccia today due to the fact that I have known him personally for quite some time. As mayor of Cleveland, in the year 1979, I appointed Mr. Ciaccia as the Commissioner of the Cleveland Division of Water. He was able to invest over \$1 billion in improvements that led to improved drinking water delivery and helped make Cleveland a healthier and more vibrant city during his time in this position.

In addition to his leadership in city government, Mr. Ciaccia has worked on a federal level as well, serving on the board of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) from 1988 to present day; he was president of AMWA between 1996 to 1998. In honor of his exceptional contributions to the improvement of drinking water supply management, he was awarded the prominent President's Award in 1999.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in thanking Julius Ciaccia for all of the hard work, dedication, and pride that he has given the city of Cleveland during his admirable career. He has served the citizens with a zeal for his work that is rarely seen, and for that, he is applauded. I hope you will join me in wishing Mr. Ciaccia the best of luck in his future venture towards becoming the executive director of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN DECATUR, ILLINOIS

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Decatur, Illinois.

The beginning of the church was the idea of Maria Carr, affectionately known as "Grandma Carr," who in 1854 escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad and settled in Decatur, Illinois. Grandma Carr, along with Mrs. Gilbert Vernon and Mrs. Emily Stains held weekly prayer meetings at their homes with the goal of establishing a local community church based on the principles of equality and civil rights.

With the help of Captain David L. Allen, a white Christian, their wish came true. He offered a small frame building to the church group and officially donated ownership of the land in 1858. The first pastor of Antioch was Reverend Tom Reasoner.

With simple beginnings, the church developed a rich history of diversity and faith. The

Antioch Church housed the first school for black citizens in Decatur. Later, the church was blessed by a faithful servant named Reverend Dr. Turner who led the congregation from 1965 until his death in 1995. During the 30 years of his service, Reverend Turner established a free food bank and clothing room, which continue to serve needy families in the community today. Reverend Turner also opened a local extension of the United Theological Seminary through which many ministers in Decatur and in neighboring cities earned their bachelor's and master's degrees in theology.

I am deeply honored to represent the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and congratulate its congregation for 150 years of service. The strong faith and history of Antioch will no doubt continue to serve the Decatur community for another 150 years, and remind us of the values of diversity and public service upon which it was established.

CONGRATULATING SANTA CLARA
UNIVERSITY'S SOLAR DECATHLON TEAM

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Santa Clara University's Solar Decathlon Team for placing third in the Department of Energy's 2007 International Solar Decathlon. I am joined by my colleague the Honorable ZOE LOFGREN, a graduate of Santa Clara University, in congratulating the students, administration, and sponsors for their tremendous accomplishments.

In this competition, university teams were challenged to design, build, and operate an energy-efficient and aesthetically-pleasing home powered by solar energy alone.

Santa Clara University was selected as one of just 20 international competitors in the 2007 Solar Decathlon, and was the only school west of the Rockies chosen to compete. Even more impressive was that Santa Clara, a school of approximately 4,500 students, competed against schools like MIT, Carnegie Mellon, and Georgia Tech, making them by far the smallest school in the Decathlon and the only competitor without a school or department of architecture.

In addition to placing third overall, they were one of five teams to score a perfect 100 points in the Hot Water contest and one of seven teams to score a perfect 100 points in the Energy Balance contest. Santa Clara's home boasted a variety of unique features that are both sustainable and energy-efficient, including the first bamboo I-beams in the United States and insulation made from recycled blue jeans.

We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Santa Clara University's Solar Decathlon Team and the generous support provided by their industrial sponsors. Their project highlights the technology and innovation characteristic of Silicon Valley.

On behalf of Representative LOFGREN and myself, congratulations to Santa Clara University's Solar Decathlon Team for placing third in this international competition and for your strong representation of the strengths of the Silicon Valley and the State of California.

RECOGNIZING RACHEL SAVAGEAU

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rachel Savageau of Shrewsbury, MA. A talented and intelligent young woman, Rachel has been named one of the recipients for the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Youth Award from the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee.

A 2007 graduate of Shrewsbury High School, Rachel proved to be an exceptional young woman during her 4 years there. Rachel helped found the Young Democrats of Shrewsbury High School and served as secretary for all four years of her high school career. She was also a member of her school's Political Action Committee and a GSA leader. Currently a political science major at UMASS Boston, she has started a Young Democrats group there and is interning for the League of Women Voters.

Rachel's active role in numerous groups makes her the perfect recipient for this award. Our country's future is invested in young people like Rachel and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, due to the ongoing wildfires in Southern California, and specifically those in the 25th District of California, I was unable to vote on the following measures. Please enter into the record this personal explanation for my absence on the following rollcall votes:

Rollcall No. 986—On Motion to Table the Resolution, which I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall No. 987—Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act, which I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 988—Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 989—Condemning the actions of September 7, 2007, resulting in damage to the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial.

Rollcall No. 990—Providing for consideration of H.R. 1011, which I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall No. 991—Providing for consideration of H.R. 1483, which I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall No. 992—Providing for consideration of H.R. 1483, which I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall No. 993—Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007, which I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I was on a leave of absence on October 24,

2007 due to the San Diego wildfires. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance.

Rollcall No. 995: Motion to Recommit with Instructions on Celebrating America's Heritage Act, H.R. 1483—"yea."

Rollcall No. 996: Passage of Celebrating America's Heritage Act, H.R. 1483—"yea."

Rollcall No. 997: Previous Question on the Rule providing consideration of Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, H.R. 505—"yea."

Rollcall No. 998: Providing consideration of Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, H.R. 505—"yea."

Rollcall No. 999: Motion to Recommit with Instructions on Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, H.R. 505—"nay."

Rollcall No. 1000: Passage of Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, H.R. 505—"yea."

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REINSTATE CERTAIN FEDERAL BENEFITS TO CITIZENS OF THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mrs. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, in introducing a bill to reinstate certain Federal benefits to citizens of the Freely Associated States, FAS.

This bill is a companion measure to S. 1676, introduced earlier this year by Senators AKAKA and INOUE, which provides eligibility for non-emergency Medicaid, Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, TANF, and Supplemental Security Income, SSI, to FAS citizens residing in the United States.

Citizens from the FAS are from the Republic of the Marshall Islands RMI, Federated States of Micronesia, FSM, and the Republic of Palau, which are jurisdictions that have a unique political relationship with the United States. The Compact of Free Association established these nations as sovereign States responsible for their own foreign policies. However, the FAS remain dependent upon the United States for military protection and economic assistance.

Under the Compact, the United States has the right to reject the strategic use of, or military access to, the FAS by other countries. This right is often referred to as the "right of strategic denial." In addition, the U.S. may block FAS Government policies that it deems inconsistent with its duty to defend the FAS, which is referred to as the "defense veto." The Compact also states that the United States has exclusive military base rights in the FAS.

In exchange for these prerogatives, the U.S. is required to support the FAS economically, with the goal of producing self-sufficiency, and FAS citizens are allowed free entry into the United States as non-immigrants for the purposes of education, medical treatment, and employment. Because of this ability to travel within the United States as a non-immigrant, many FAS citizens have since migrated to the State of Hawaii.

According to Governor Linda Lingle, in 2006 the State of Hawaii spent an estimated \$91 million in State funds to provide health and social services to migrants from the FAS. This amount is almost double the cost of \$48 million reported to the U.S. Department of the Interior by the State of Hawaii for health and social services provided to Compact migrants in 2003, which was the last year such figures were compiled. Clearly, the cost to the state is growing and will continue to grow.

No State can expect its taxpayers to bear such an increasingly costly burden for an agreement that is in the interest of our entire Nation. The Federal Government should do more to help address the unintended social services consequences of the Compact.

I know that Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands face the same challenges in the provision of health and social services to FAS citizens as the State of Hawaii. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 751, a resolution I have introduced supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week, which starts today, October 22, 2007.

During the next 5 days, millions of people, particularly students in elementary and secondary schools, will be engaged in chemistry-related activities that show the importance of chemistry to our quality of life. With assistance from American Chemical Society, ACS, staff, thousands of volunteers will conduct these activities in venues from shopping malls, to classrooms, to university labs.

National Chemistry Week was created by ACS in 1987 to draw attention to the positive contributions chemistry makes to our everyday lives. These contributions include helping feed, house, and clothe the world's population; tapping new energy sources; providing renewable substitutes for limited materials; improving public health; strengthening our national security; and protecting our environment.

During this year's 20th anniversary of National Chemistry Week, we are celebrating "The Many Faces of Chemistry." This theme was chosen to emphasize the extensive variety of careers available in the world of chemistry and to honor the tremendous diversity of people who have contributed and will contribute to the advancement of chemistry and all of its branches. This year's theme takes added importance when you consider that a disproportionately low number of minority, underprivileged, and young women students are taking up careers in science and technology.

The inclusion of women and under-represented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, STEM, is not just important to correct for historical employment inequities, but to provide under-represented minorities an opportunity for pros-

perity. The increased education and participation of this segment of the workforce is also essential to supplying the American economy with the STEM expertise the country needs to innovate and remain competitive. According to the U.S. Census, 39 percent of the population under the age of 18 is a racial or ethnic minority. That percentage is on a path to pass 50 percent by the year 2050. Yet, in 2000, only 4.4 percent of the science and engineering jobs were held by African Americans and only 3.4 percent by Hispanics. Women constitute over half of the post-secondary students in the Nation, but represent a little more than one-quarter of our science and engineering workforce. We must correct these disparities, and fast.

This is not an issue of compromising high standards. If America is to achieve its strategic objectives in STEM, the enormous potential of groups that are currently under-represented in the STEM fields must be realized through expanded and focused educational opportunity. Some see tension between policies that focus resources on certain groups and the pursuit for excellence, but the simple truth is that the general achievement of excellence is strongly linked to the prevalence of opportunity.

Scientists from these under-represented groups have demonstrated excellence through important contributions to our understanding of the environment and the sciences. Two notable examples include Mario Molina, an atmospheric chemist who received a Nobel Prize for his work establishing the link between CFCs and atmospheric ozone destruction, and Percy L. Julian, who was the first black chemist elected to the National Academy of Sciences and whose work in synthesizing a compound used to treat glaucoma led to his having been ranked by ACS as one of the top 75 Distinguished Contributors to the Chemical Enterprise.

If we are to remain an innovative and economically competitive nation, the face of our high-tech workforce must reflect the true face of America. Our workforce will not be the best America has to offer if we do not ensure that we are taking advantage of all pools of domestic talent. "The Many Faces of Chemistry" theme is especially significant because it focuses on promoting diversity, which will help ensure national competitiveness by encouraging broad participation from all sources of talent in the sciences and chemistry.

I thank the American Chemical Society for their work in promoting the chemical sciences and the important role of diversity. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Monday, October 22, 2007, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall votes 983, 984 and 985.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall votes 983, 984 and 985.

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH ONSLOW

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and celebrate the tenure of Deborah Onslow, President and General Manager of WMHT Educational Telecommunications in Troy, NY.

On November 1, 2007, the Tech Valley community in my district will come together to celebrate Ms. Onslow's many years of dedication, hard work, and accomplishment on behalf of public broadcasting at the community and national levels. Her leadership and commitment to local community values is integral not only to the success of WMHT, but to the entire public television and radio community.

Ms. Onslow assumed the position of President and General Manager of WMHT Educational Telecommunications in March 2001, becoming the first woman ever to head a New York State public broadcasting station. During her distinguished career, Ms. Onslow has received national recognition for outstanding achievements in local fundraising, as well as for local program production. Before joining WMHT, Ms. Onslow served as Vice President and General Manager of WGBY in Springfield, MA, and as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of WXXI in Rochester, NY.

Ms. Onslow is a member of the WGBH Educational Foundation, and has also served on the PBS Board of Directors. Locally, she is serving on the Business-Higher Education Roundtable, as well as on the Board of Directors of the Center for Economic Growth. She was co-chair of the 2003 American Heart Association's Capital Region American Heart Walk.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Deborah Onslow for her distinguished career in furthering the mission and values of public broadcasting.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On October 27, 2007 a group of 97 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home State of Louisiana to visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our Nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA TATE OF
HOWEY IN THE HILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, each year the President of the United States presents the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics to outstanding teachers in the disciplines of math and science from the 50 States and 4 territories. This year, Patricia Tate from Lake County, FL, is one of the three math finalists for the award from the State of Florida.

Established in 1983, the Presidential Award for Excellence is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The award recognizes outstanding kindergarten to 12th grade math and science teachers in each State who are models for their colleagues and leaders in the improvement of science and mathematics education.

For the past 42 years Patricia Tate has taught math at the high school level. A current teacher at South Lake High School, she teaches AP Calculus, trigonometry, integrated Math III and Algebra II. In addition to her classroom experiences, Patricia goes out of her way to volunteer as a mentor for other Lake County math teachers. She has also been an online guide for Connected University and has taught at Lake-Sumter Community College.

An avid fan of math from an early age, Patricia really took it on as a passion while her older brother was in college. When he returned home during vacations, he would work with Patricia on math, challenging her to solve more and more complex problems. It was through these exercises that she saw the educational and teaching possibilities that math could create.

Patricia has seen a marked change in the way students are taught throughout her forty-plus years in the classroom. Instead of using the blackboard as the primary tool of instruction, as she did for many years, today Patricia uses multimedia presentations and PowerPoint presentations to reach the current tech-savvy student body. While the classroom experience has gotten more challenging over time, she still enjoys getting letters of appreciation from former students who valued her math teaching and want to thank her for making a difference in their lives.

While Patricia will not find out if she is a winner until next March, I can tell you that her record of accomplishment teaching math to high school students is unmatched in my congressional district. Patricia Tate serves as a role model for other teachers throughout Florida. I wish her the best of luck in the competition and hope that she continues her exemplary work on behalf of Lake County students.

TRIBUTE TO THE AUDUBON OHIO
URBAN CONSERVATION CREW
SUMMER CAMP AT THE ROCKE-
FELLER PARK GREENHOUSE IN
CLEVELAND

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Audubon Ohio Urban Conservation Crew Summer Camp at the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse in Cleveland. The Ohio program of the National Audubon Society is working hard to ensure that children in the central city have the opportunity to connect with nature and, in doing so, improve both their educational achievement and their sense of community and self-esteem.

During the recent August recess I had the good fortune to visit the Ohio program of the National Audubon Society which is also a program in my own district. The program, a free summer camp for neighborhood children ages 8 to 11, is known as the Urban Conservation Crew. Through this program, Audubon Ohio, in less than five weeks, has succeeded in developing a group of budding scientists who have mastered the fine points of bird identification and behavior, focusing on the birds and plants of their own neighborhood.

Audubon Ohio chose as its location for the camp the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse. The Greenhouse is located in the heart of Cleveland's historic Glenville neighborhood. Owned and operated by the City of Cleveland, the Greenhouse's official function is to develop plants for indoor and outdoor use at other city properties. But the facility includes classroom space, extensive gardens (including a community garden), and a large meadow ringed with mature trees that makes an excellent habitat for birds.

I grew up near the Greenhouse, yet during my visit I learned a lot of new things about it. Chief among these was the fact that the Greenhouse property immediately adjoins an "Important Bird Area," or "IBA." IBAs are part of an international network of areas that are important to the survival of migratory birds. This network was created by a European-based organization, Birdlife International. Audubon is the Birdlife partner responsible for designating and protecting IBAs in the United States.

The Greenhouse sits next to one of 63 IBAs that Audubon has designated in Ohio. Specifically, it is next to the "Doan Brook/Dike 14 IBA," a key migratory corridor that connects the coast of Lake Erie with the upland Shaker Lakes on the western edge of the Appalachian Plateau. In practical terms this means that a lot of interesting birds pass through the area, with many species nesting in it. This in turn creates an opportunity for children in Glenville to explore an important natural area right near where they live.

From what I saw of the camp, Audubon Ohio is taking full advantage of the location of the Greenhouse and the convergence of a central city neighborhood with an interesting natural area. During the first four weeks of the camp, children walked the Greenhouse grounds and the surrounding neighborhood with Audubon instructors who taught them how to identify birds both by sight and by

sound. Audubon also took advantage of the plant life inside and outside of the Greenhouse to teach the children about what plants they could grow in their neighborhood and how the birds of the neighborhood would both help the plants survive by eating pests and, in turn, benefit themselves from the seeds and berries produced by the plants.

During my visit the children showed off the knowledge that they had picked up in only a few weeks. They explained to me the concept of "field marks" of birds and how I could use field marks to distinguish different species. They identified the various body parts of birds and explained how I could distinguish the sexes of different species, such as the Northern Cardinal. They told me what kind of food birds could find around the neighborhood and how people could help birds by supplying this food. And they explained how to protect birds from man-made threats, such as plastic "six pack" holders that, they said, I needed to cut up so that birds would not get their necks stuck in them and choke.

Beyond the knowledge and conservation values that the children were displaying, I was impressed by the passion with which the children were discussing the birds and plants of their neighborhood. I kept having to remind myself that these children were all less than 12 years old, some as young as eight, had no previous interest in birds, let alone experience in identifying them. These children were learning complex fundamental scientific techniques, including observation, distinction, grouping by similarities, understanding food chains and identifying threats and barriers. Introducing children to birds and plants was a great way of teaching them science by drawing on children's inherent desire to explore and understand the natural world around them.

Cleveland is blessed with a number of outstanding institutions that have offered nature-based education to children over the years. These include our fabulous Metro Parks network as well as stand-alone institutions such as The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Education Center. These institutions have gone to great lengths to reach out to the central city by bringing children out to their suburban and exurban facilities. I appreciate all of the efforts they have made over the years, and I hope they continue.

What distinguishes Audubon Ohio's Urban Conservation Crew is that it is being conducted right in the neighborhood where the children live. Given the enthusiasm I saw in the children during their visit, I am confident that they will continue to explore Rockefeller Park, looking for birds, plants and other animals, long after the camp is over.

After my visit I learned that Cleveland is not the only location where Audubon has been offering programs like the Urban Conservation Crew to central city children. In Columbus, Audubon is developing the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, a nature-based education center slated to open in 2009 in a central city neighborhood just a mile south of downtown. Audubon already has similar facilities at Prospect Park in Brooklyn and in Debs Park in East Los Angeles. Another urban center, known as "the Rio Salado Center," is under development in the heart of Phoenix.

It is notable that Audubon Ohio produced the Urban Conservation Crew program almost

entirely with private funds. Support came from the Cleveland Foundation, the Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust, and the Shaker Lakes Garden Club. Audubon Ohio did, however, receive a small amount of federal money, specifically a \$5,000 grant from the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service. It goes to show how a relatively small amount of federal dollars can be leveraged to produce great results.

I commend Audubon, Ohio for helping to reconnect children with nature, particularly in the central city. Audubon and its Ohio program deserve high marks for their creativity and skill in doing so at the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse in Cleveland and elsewhere. They provide great hope for the future.

MARIANAS WAGE HIKE SHOWING POSITIVE EFFECTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share encouraging news from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. As many of my colleagues know, I have been fighting for years to ensure that employers in the CNMI—an American territory in the Pacific—pay their workers an honest wage.

But for years, we were blocked from reforming the broken labor and immigration system in the Marianas. The corrupt lobbyist Jack Abramoff's collusion with then-Majority Leader Tom DeLay and others here in Congress meant that the CNMI's sweatshop-based economy persisted for almost two decades after we were first made aware of abuses there.

Eventually, Abramoff's dishonest schemes, which caused so much human misery, caught the attention of law enforcement, and the web of corruption is now unraveled. Jack Abramoff is in prison, Representative DeLay no longer serves in this House, and the Congress has a Democratic majority.

That is good news for the workers of America and especially those in the CNMI. Earlier this year, the new Congress raised the minimum wage across the country for the first time in almost a decade. And for the first time, that increase applies to the Northern Marianas. Today, workers there make \$3.55 an hour, up from the barely \$3 that workers there were paid for years.

This long-overdue reform is already having a positive effect, and I commend to my colleagues the article below from the Marianas Variety ("Labor: Wage hike drives locals to seek jobs"). As the article explains, we still lack good data on the CNMI job situation, but the trend is very encouraging: the number of people looking for jobs in September of this year was up by an incredible 80 percent compared to the same period last year, according to their Department of Labor.

For too long, thanks to policies that reinforced the low-wage garment industry's dominance, there were very few good-paying jobs in the Marianas: if you weren't willing to work for \$3 an hour, you could either work in the public sector, or you could live on public assistance. But as the Commonwealth's deputy

secretary of labor says in the article, "There are so many people looking for jobs not only because they need them but because the (minimum) wage is now \$3.55 an hour. It's waking them up to go out (and join the workforce)." The bottom line is that the increase in wages is attracting jobseekers to private sector jobs, exactly as we predicted.

It's an abiding shame that it took the U.S. Congress so many years to bring reforms to the Mariana Islands and to raise the minimum wage. And it was a major setback for workers there when the government of the Commonwealth went back on earlier attempts to raise the wage locally. But even though it comes years after I would have liked, I am pleased, although not surprised, by this early report. Under the leadership of this New Direction Congress, we are starting to turn things around, and we are beginning to see the positive results of raising the minimum wage.

Paying honest wages for honest work is good for our economy and the right policy for our country. Members of this Congress should be proud that we are moving America, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, in a new direction.

[From the Marianas Variety, Oct. 26, 2007]

LABOR: WAGE HIKE DRIVES LOCALS TO SEEK JOBS

(By Gemma Q. Casas)

The 50-cent increase on the local minimum wage in July resulted in an increase in the number of locals seeking employment assistance at the Department of Labor, according to its deputy secretary, Alfred Pangelinan.

He said there were 1,800 local jobseekers in September up by 80 percent compared to the same period last year when Labor assisted 1,000 jobseekers.

He attributed the sudden surge to the increase on the minimum wage from \$3.05 an hour to \$3.55 and the worsening economic crisis. "There are so many people looking for jobs not only because they need them but because the (minimum) wage is now \$3.55 an hour. It's waking them up to go out (and join the workforce)," he said.

He believes that as the local minimum wage increases, more residents will be enticed to work in the private sector.

The Federal Minimum Wage Act became law in May of this year and it also applies to the CNMI, mandating an increase of the local minimum wage by 50 cents every year until it reaches the U.S. minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

The next 50-cent increase in the CNMI minimum wage will take effect in July 2008, which will raise the rate to \$4.05 an hour.

The Department of Labor says it is also making sure that local residents who are employed get the monetary equivalent of their foreign counterparts' non-monetary benefits to further encourage them to work.

Pangelinan said the real unemployment rate among the local population is difficult to determine because the statistics only include those that come forward and seek assistance. There hasn't been any CNMI-wide survey conducted in recent years to determine how many local residents are jobless.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINA HALE VANBRAKLE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Christina Hale

VanBrakle, who everyone knows as "Tina," a long-time employee of the Federal Election Commission, who will retire from the United States Government at the end of this year after more than 38 years of distinguished federal service. Tina has spent 28 of those years working at the Federal Election Commission and the last 19 assisting me and many of my colleagues as the FEC's Director of Congressional, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

A native of Washington, DC, Tina grew up in Maryland and has been a resident of Silver Spring in Montgomery County, Maryland for the last 24 years. After graduating from Suitland Senior High School in Maryland, she accepted a job at the Maritime Administration, Department of Commerce, where she spent 2 years working as a press assistant for the late John K. Tennant, who was the Press Officer. Mr. Tennant introduced Tina to then-Chairman Helen Delich Bentley of the Federal Maritime Commission, and former Congresswoman from Maryland. She accepted a secretarial position with Chairman Bentley where she was employed for several years. Tina has fond memories of traveling with Chairman Bentley on various speaking engagements. Most memorable was a visit to San Clemente—the Western White House—for a meeting with Japanese shipping interests during the Nixon Administration. Tina also met her husband, Bryant, while employed at the FMC. They were married in 1983 and have three children, Wendy, Ashley and Derek. They have one grandchild, Dominic, with another expected in January 2008.

Tina also worked with Vice Chairman Barbara Hackman Franklin at the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, enrolling at the University of Maryland at night, where she earned a Paralegal Certificate in the Legislative Liaison Program and a B.S. in management and technology and political science. Tina then joined the newly created Washington office of a Detroit law firm.

Tina joined the Federal Election Commission in 1979, where she worked for the Deputy Staff Director, then served as Special Assistant to the Staff Director. In 1988 she was named Director of Congressional, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. Tina is widely respected on the Hill for her dedication and quick and accurate responses to questions and perhaps will be best remembered by the campaign finance community for providing fair and impartial advice to anyone who contacted her.

Whether she was answering a simple question regarding the campaign finance laws, preparing a fact sheet for a Member of Congress on a budget or campaign finance matter, or preparing Commissioners for a hearing, Tina served with commitment, integrity and competence. On the occasion of her retirement from the United States Government, I offer my congratulations, and wish Tina and her husband, Bryant, all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO OLGA WOLOSYN,
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and exceptional accomplishments of Mayor Olga Wolosyn. This remarkable public servant merits both our recognition and esteem as her impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service has improved the lives of our people.

Sadly, Mayor Wolosyn was taken from us by a series of brain aneurysms at the young age of 54. Olga will be greatly missed. Her passion for civic life and her capacity for community service were boundless. Her indomitable spirit sustained her through many challenges and molded a life of genuine accomplishment. Truly, her passing is a great loss to our entire community. Olga came to us from her native Pennsylvania where she earned her bachelor of arts degree from Seton Hill College. Subsequently, Olga and her husband moved to the Front Range from Grand Junction in 1972. Olga was elected to the Englewood City Council in November 1999 and served as mayor from November 2005.

I always looked forward to visiting with Olga and members of the Englewood City Council because I was so taken by Olga's energy and enthusiasm for Englewood's plans as well as prospects for the future. She was a powerful advocate for her city and inspired conduct beyond the expected. Good leaders set the example and Olga led by doing. Many have pointed out that Olga "was tireless and seemed to volunteer constantly," "she was going full speed all the time," "she had everyone's best interest at heart" and "regardless of the task for which she volunteered, she always got it done and got it done on time." Olga was a devoted volunteer with the schools; she served on the water board and the pension board; she served on the Englewood Education Foundation and the Englewood Teenage Drinking Task Force and she served on the board of the Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce. As mayor, she helped secure a \$1 million grant for schools to teach mathematics through art. In addition to her community service, Olga was a businesswoman and operated a pottery establishment—Wolosyn-Doty Pottery—with her husband, Jim Doty. Given Olga's capacity for achievement, it comes as no surprise that the Englewood Chamber chose Olga as Business Woman of the Year in 2004.

Civic institutions depend on people with enormous energy and imagination. Olga was an extraordinary civic leader because she understood there are many ways to define a community. Olga was an artist and she recognized the power of art to inspire creativity, to bring people together and to foster new ways of collaboration. Olga's efforts to expand public art in Englewood added dimension to public spaces and created a deeper interaction between the community and its environs. As one of the founders of Englewood Arts, I believe Olga knew that the vision of a thriving community needed art and culture at its center and that is why Olga worked tirelessly to establish a cultural arts facility and make the arts part

of the Englewood experience. Someone once noted that "a thriving culture is a community alive." We are grateful for the life and vitality Olga brought to the arts, culture and the community. Her efforts have enhanced our sense of place and increased our quality of life.

Olga Wolosyn lived a life that is rich in consequence. Englewood is a better place because of her efforts. Her character and her deeds leave a legacy of civic commitment rivaled by few. Truly, we are all diminished by the all too early passing of this remarkable woman. Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Mayor Olga Wolosyn, a distinguished public servant. It is the values, leadership and dedication she exhibited during her life that serves to build a better future for all of us.

CONGRATULATING JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN FARMINGTON, MISSOURI

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jefferson Elementary School in Farmington, Missouri for receiving one of the most prestigious education awards in the country—the Blue Ribbon Schools Award. The administrators, teachers and students at Jefferson Elementary have all committed themselves to ensuring a brighter future for our Nation.

The foundation of our Nation is the education of our youth. Schools like Jefferson Elementary guarantee hope for the next generation by inspiring and empowering each individual to achieve his or her maximum potential. The teachers, administrators and parents at Jefferson Elementary understand a strong education system is necessary to grant each child the opportunity to succeed.

Jefferson Elementary is a shining example of what can be accomplished when teachers and students work purposefully together. I am very pleased that their successes are being closely observed by other schools and communities across the Nation. Jefferson Elementary's successes will motivate others, regardless of background or circumstance, to meet higher standards and guarantee a hopeful future for our country.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to pay tribute to Jefferson Elementary for this important achievement. I ask that you join me in congratulating the students, teachers, administrators and parents of Jefferson Elementary on this tremendous honor.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DEAN PERRY

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Dean Perry, a resident of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away October 23, 2007.

Dean Perry was born in Elizabethton on December 5, 1925, to the late Ike and Martha

Peters Perry. Mr. Perry served in the United States Army as a sergeant in the 5th Army in Italy during World War II and was recalled to active duty during the Korean War.

He was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Elizabethton. His life of service was not only in the military. Mr. Perry was a member of the Dshiell Masonic Lodge #238 F & AM, Shriners, American Legion Post #49, Civitans and the Capt. Lynn H. Folsom VFW Post #2166.

Mr. Perry also served on the Carter County election Commission, First Tennessee-Virginia Development District, Board of Directors for the Carter County Rescue Squad, Elizabethton City Council, Mayor of Elizabethton and Chairman of the Carter County Commission.

He is survived by his lovely wife of 55 years, Ella Ruth Nave Perry.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Dean Perry. He was a dedicated family man, a servant of this Nation, and a true patriot.

His service is greatly treasured, and he will be deeply missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FARMERS UNION

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, RMFU, for 100 years of proud service to the independent farmers and ranchers of Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming.

The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union was founded in 1907 as a grassroots organization dedicated to improving the well-being of family producers and their communities through legislation, cooperation, and education. This organization believes, as I do, that stable farm and ranch families are the foundation of healthy rural communities, and healthy rural communities bolster the entire U.S. economy and provide the Nation with a steady, wholesome, local food supply.

As a practical display of these values, RMFU founded the Educational Charitable Foundation in 1996 offering programs such as the Cooperative Development Center, seminars and conferences on renewable energy, and campaigns such as "Buy Fresh Buy Local." As a family organization RMFU also sponsors activities and educational opportunities for all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens. This organization seeks to meld the value of experience with the importance of developing young leaders.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to publicly recognize the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union on their 100th anniversary and thank them for their service to the ranchers and farmers of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. And although we don't always agree about how best to help farmers and ranchers, I wish RMFU continued success as they advocate for the needs of the independent producer into the next century.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALTER P. REUTHER'S BIRTH AND THE REDEDICATION OF REUTHER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the 100th anniversary of the birth of a great civic leader, Walter P. Reuther, and the rededication of Reuther Middle School in Rochester Hills, Michigan on October 28, 2007.

Mr. Reuther grew up in Wheeling, West Virginia where he learned the value and practicality of trade unionism. After serving an apprenticeship in tool and die work, he left for Detroit to complete his education and join the automobile industry with both Ford and General Motors. Mr. Reuther became an active member of the United Automobile Workers (UAW), where he eventually became president of the UAW Local 174 and a member of the UAW executive board. In 1946, Mr. Reuther was elected president of the UAW, a position he held until his passing in 1970.

As president of the UAW, Mr. Reuther worked to enhance job security, medical insurance, pensions, and supplemental unemployment benefits for the union members. Mr. Reuther used his position to influence far more than just labor policies. He stood beside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as he delivered his historic "I Have a Dream Speech" and was a strong supporter of the Civil Rights Movement. For all of his contributions Mr. Reuther was named in TIME magazine's list of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century.

Reuther Middle School, part of the Rochester Community School Community, was named in honor of May and Walter Reuther for their service to the school community. Opened in 1973, Reuther Junior High, as it was then named, taught 750 students in grades seven through nine. In 1986, the Rochester Community Schools changed to a middle school philosophy, serving grades six through eight, and changing the name to Reuther Middle School.

In the 2003–2004 school year, the citizens of Rochester Community School District approved a bond measure to renovate Reuther Middle School. On October 28, 2007, Reuther Middle School will be officially rededicated, celebrating not only their 35th school year, but also the 100th anniversary of Mr. Walter P. Reuther's birth.

Madam Speaker, today I commend Reuther Middle School for their continued devotion to the community and their record of excellence. Let the school continue to be a tribute to a great civic and social leader, Mr. Walter P. Reuther.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
ADOLFO "POPO" GONZALEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Adolfo "Popo" Gon-

zalez, on his retirement from the Texas Army National Guard, where he served his state and country honorably for the past 39 years.

Mr. Gonzalez was born to Aurelia Lopez Gonzalez and the late Eusebio Bustos Gonzalez in June 17, 1949, in Laredo, Texas. He started working at the family restaurant when he was 12 years old, and then ran a paper route for the Laredo Morning Times. Mr. Gonzalez graduated from J.W. Nixon High School in 1967, and then received his associate degree from Laredo Community College. He joined the Texas National Army National Guard on May 25, 1968, which began the start of his 39 years service in the National Guard. Mr. Gonzalez received his B.S. in Education with a major in English and Spanish from Texas A&M International University.

Mr. Gonzalez is intensely involved in the community as a member of several local and non-profit organizations such as President of LULAC #690, Laredo Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce, Laredo Frontier Days, Webb County Community Action Agency, and the Laredo Veterans Coalition. He also is a member of the Laredo Airport Advisory Board, the Webb County Water Committee, Laredo Evening Lions Club, Santa Isabel Creek Feasibility Study, Non-Commission Officers Club of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas State Teachers Association, and the National Guard Association of Texas.

In addition to his civic involvement with the community, Mr. Gonzalez works as a teacher at United High School, where he has taught oral communications to ESL learners for the past 22 years. When he is not teaching students or working with community organizations, Mr. Gonzalez helps his fellow veterans out as the Laredo Area chair for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, which works with local employers to safeguard the rights of guardsmen and reservists. He was named the Outstanding Volunteer for the State of Texas in recognition of his work with ESGR.

Mr. Gonzalez is a proud father to six children: Adolfo, Jr., Albert, Richard, Annette Marie, Alejandro Jose, and Yvette Magally. He has been married to his wife, Juana Maria Lopez, for the past 25 years.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication and commitment of Master Sergeant Adolfo "Popo" Gonzalez to the City of Laredo in the State of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNINE TUTTLE
RAINBOLT

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to pay special tribute to one of Oklahoma's own, Jeannine Tuttle Rainbolt, who recently lost her life after a long struggle with lung cancer.

I join with all my fellow Oklahomans in mourning the tragic loss of this remarkable woman. Jeannine Tuttle Rainbolt was both deeply admired and sincerely respected by all who knew her. She will forever be remembered for her generosity, leadership, and integrity.

For 57 years, she was dedicated to her husband and best friend, Gene Rainbolt, who will

undoubtedly miss her. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gene and all who mourn the loss of Jeannine.

Jeannine lived a purposeful life focused on enhancing the lives of others. Throughout her career as an educator, she inspired her pupils to vigorously pursue greater levels of personal and academic achievement; and she tirelessly worked to shape youth, into the leaders of the future. Jeannine's example also reached beyond the walls of the classroom. As a passionate and active philanthropist, she was a model member of her community, inspiring countless others to become civically engaged and to join together for the purpose of strengthening local families and communities.

Madam Speaker, it is without question Jeannine was an exceptional woman; however there is one notable quality about her which I find to be most remarkable—her ability to persevere. Throughout her difficult struggle with cancer, she never yielded to despair. Rather she continued to live with hope and grace.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I commemorate the life and legacy of Jeannine Tuttle Rainbolt along with my fellow Oklahomans. Jeannine's legacy of unconditional love, generosity, and leadership will undoubtedly continue to exist in the hearts and minds of all she inspired.

RECOGNIZING THE VISIT OF
MAYOR OF FAMAGUSTA, CYPRUS,
MR. ALEXIS GALANOS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Mr. Alexis Galanos, the elected Mayor of Famagusta, Republic of Cyprus to Washington, DC. Mayor Galanos is the only democratically elected and exiled mayor of a population that is primarily constituted of refugees. He was elected Mayor of Famagusta in December of 2006 and has since worked tirelessly to raise humanitarian awareness about Famagusta and its exiled people.

He is here championing the global campaign undertaken by the Citizens of Famagusta for the return of their city in the occupied area of Cyprus which has been a "ghost town" since the 1974 illegal invasion by Turkey.

Famagusta was the main town of the second largest district of Cyprus both in terms of its population and surface area. The cultivation and production of the potato crop, the rich and fertile mainland, the port, tourist and industrial sectors, were the most significant contributors to the city's economic dynamism prior to the 1974.

The development of the tourist industry in the late 1960s and early 1970's had very beneficial effects for the construction industry and moreover, supplied many jobs to the local population, in particular with respect to services related to tourism. A great number of people came to Famagusta on a daily basis, primarily for work. This greatly enhanced the economy of the city and assured a steady rise in its living standards.

Famagusta was the island's most cosmopolitan destination. The construction of a

modern harbor for Famagusta in 1932 was an important factor in the promotion and development of the city and contributed to a surge in its economic activity. The expansion and deepening of the harbor, completed in 1965 solidified Famagusta's position that became dominant in terms of the flow of merchandise coming in and out of the island.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey unlawfully invaded Cyprus, and a few weeks later, on August 14, Turkish military forces in the second phase of the invasion moved further south and bombarded Famagusta relentlessly. Greek Cypriots were forced to flee their homes in fear and terror, never to return again. Turkish forces sealed off the city with barbed wire fences.

45,000 inhabitants of Famagusta became refugees in their own country. They lost their land, their properties, their homes and businesses and many of their own people.

Since the Turkish invasion, religious symbols, churches, monasteries, and cultural heritage of Cyprus have been subject to destruction, looting and vandalism, stolen, and illegally excavated and sold on the black market.

More than 500 Greek Orthodox churches and chapels, 17 monasteries in the occupied area in the north have been pillaged, destroyed, turned into casinos and stables. The ecclesiastical items for these sites—including more than 15,000 portable icons—remain unaccounted for.

Since 2003, with the partial lifting of movement restrictions by the occupation regime, Greek Cypriot displaced persons could visit their homes and properties, but are still denied the right to return and live where they were born and raised.

A large proportion of the properties from which the Greek Cypriot owners were expelled, was unlawfully distributed to and is currently being used by the tens of thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey.

Unprecedented illegal construction is taking place on land which belongs to Greek Cypriots forced to abandon their homes during the invasion by Turkey.

The U.N. General Assembly, the U.N. Security Council and the U.N. Commission of Human Rights, as well as the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and several other international organizations have repeatedly demanded the urgent return of the refugees to their homes in safety. In particular, since 1974, more than 75 resolutions have been adopted by the U.N. Security Council and more than 13 by the U.N. General Assembly, calling inter alia for the return of the refugees to their homes and properties. Furthermore, in regards to Famagusta/Varosha area, OP 5 of the the U.N. Security Council resolution 550/1984, inter alia states, that it "considers attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible and calls for the transfer of this area to the administration of the United Nations".

These resolutions are being ignored by Turkey, which has refused to comply, and flagrantly continues to violate the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriots, including the freedom of movement and ownership.

The European Court of Human Rights found Turkey guilty of violating relevant articles of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for refusing to

allow the return of any Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes and denying them access to and use of their property.

In the 1979 High Level Agreement between the then President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Kyprianou and the then Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Denktash, it was agreed that "priority will be given to reaching agreement to the resettlement of Varosha under U.N. auspices simultaneously with the beginning of the consideration by the interlocutors of the constitutional and territorial aspects of a comprehensive settlement. After agreement on Varosha has been reached it will be implemented without awaiting the outcome of the discussion on other aspects of the Cyprus problem". Unfortunately, Turkey has not adhered to this agreement in any discussions regarding the return of the refugees.

Expatriated and uprooted Famagustians worked very hard, both in Cyprus and abroad to make a living, they had to start from scratch.

The people of Famagusta, like all other Greek Cypriot refugees, have a burning desire and right to return to their homes.

I commend Mayor Galanos for the extraordinary outreach he has engaged in to bridge the gap between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot divide and work towards a reunified Cyprus and a thriving and bustling Famagusta.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN MICHAEL ASHLOCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Michael Ashlock of Liberty, Missouri. Steven is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Michael Ashlock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ASSESSMENT ACCURACY AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, as Congress considers the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act this year, have an obligation to listen closely to the students, parents, and educators that we represent to ensure that our efforts result in responsible and pragmatic im-

provements. While we have made great strides in the areas of assessment and accountability over the last five years, this reauthorization provides a critical opportunity to learn from our experiences and fine-tune the law.

One example of a lesson my constituents have learned, and have adamantly shared with me, is that we should be encouraging States to move toward better assessment models. As I have met with educators over the past year, one of the primary concerns that I have heard is that the State assessment fails to provide information of value to educators and administrators. Even more disturbing, it often takes 4 to 6 months before scores are returned to schools, which leaves little or no time for teachers to use the information to address student performance before they advance to the next grade.

However, I believe there is a sensible solution that Congress can adopt to address these concerns and give States more options in assessment design. Today, Representative DAVID WU and I are introducing the bipartisan Assessment Accuracy and Improvement Act of 2007 to give States the option to use adaptive testing as their statewide assessment measuring reading, math, and science to fulfill No Child Left Behind requirements. I believe that this legislation will give States the ability to truly track the academic growth of every child and provide more accurate information to teachers, parents and school administrators through the use of an adaptive test.

For those who may be unfamiliar with adaptive testing, it is a test that changes in response to previously asked questions. For example, if a student answers a question correctly, the test presents a question of increased difficulty. If a student answers incorrectly, the test presents a question of decreased difficulty. As you can see, an adaptive test customizes itself to a student's actual level of performance with a great degree of accuracy.

Giving States the flexibility to use an adaptive test and to ask questions outside of grade level will improve the accuracy of student assessment and enable educators to target appropriate instruction for each child based on performance at, above, or below grade level. In addition, using an adaptive test over time will allow accurate measurement of the performance growth of each individual student.

In my district, nearly a third of school districts currently use their own funds to participate in adaptive testing in addition to the State assessment required by NCLB. Educators and administrators appreciate the diagnostic information it yields and the efficiency that it provides. I believe that school districts nationally are already "speaking with their wallets" by spending scarce resources to voluntarily participate in this testing because it provides valuable information that the State assessment does not. And, although our bill does not require States to adopt adaptive testing, it gives them the freedom to do so should they decide it is a better model for their students and educators.

Madam Speaker, adaptive testing and growth models are the key to putting the "child" back into No Child Left Behind. I hope that our colleagues will join us in this pragmatic and responsible improvement to the law as we work towards a bipartisan reauthorization this year.

HONORING THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARADE AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

HON. ALBIO SIREs

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Scholarship Committee on their 20th Anniversary. The Committee has fulfilled its mission to honor the memory of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and kept his legacy alive by providing scholarships to deserving students.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Scholarship Committee was founded in 1987 by James Caldwell, Herb Champion and the late Tony Filmore. Their enthusiasm allowed them to be able to organize their first march in honor of Dr. King in January of 1988. Year after year, the event has been successful in bringing together the African-American community, as well as in promoting the values that Dr. King taught us all: respect, inclusion and dignity. Today, 16 members work tirelessly to put together a spectacular parade that has become a tradition in our congressional district.

In August of 1990, the members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade Committee expanded their mission by creating a scholarship that would help outstanding students achieve their educational goals. Since then, twenty-four students have received yearly scholarships over four-year periods, recognizing the achievements of five college-bound high school seniors each year and giving them the opportunity for a better future.

Please join me in congratulating the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Scholarship Committee on their 20th Anniversary. I wish them continued success and hope they continue to instill the teachings of Dr. King in our youth who are the future of the 13th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN DANIEL FOLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Daniel Foley of Gladstone, Missouri. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Daniel Foley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF PATRICIA HANS, NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES 2007 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary public service of Patricia Hans, who this weekend will be honored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanity as the 2007 Teacher of the Year.

Pat Hans is an American Studies teacher at Ridgewood High School, where she teaches an interdisciplinary program of history and literature. Using literature to understand historical events and history to enhance the literary experience, her classroom has been described as a place where "ideas explode into reality." Pat Hans draws on the rich cultural and historical resources of North Jersey to give her students a textured experience in learning.

In addition to teaching at Ridgewood High School, Pat Hans also teaches English Composition at Bergen Community College as an adjunct professor. A graduate of the State University of New York at Albany, with a Masters in English from my alma mater, Montclair State University, Pat Hans is a respected lecturer as well.

She has given presentations before the Bard College Institute for Writing and Thinking, the New Jersey Writing Alliance, the New Jersey Council for the Teachers of English, and the New Jersey Education Association. She has been bestowed a number of fellowships and awards for her work, including the Summer Institute Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Poetry Fellowship, and a John F. Kennedy Public Service Grant. In both 2003 and 2004, she was named the Seton Hall Teacher Scholar.

Pat Hans demonstrates an ongoing love for history and literature and continues to deepen her own knowledge and understanding for the humanities. Her passion for learning is infectious and no one benefits from it more than the students who enter her classroom. She is a model teacher and an exemplary public servant. As her colleagues honor her this weekend, I join them in commending her for her commitment to excellence in education.

HONORING SARKIS SARABIAN AS THE 2007 AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Sarkis Sarabian, president of Sarabian Farms in Sanger, California, for receiving the 2007 Agriculturist of the Year Award from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. As a family farmer, who has lead his family's growing and shipping operations for many years, Sarkis is most deserving of this honor.

The roots of Sarabian Farms run deep in California's Central Valley. Since 1920 the

Sarabian family has actively participated in the farming operation specializing in peaches, plums and nectarines. Now in its fourth generation, Sarabian Farms is proof that multi-generational farming can continue to thrive as an outstanding enterprise for many years.

For ten years, Sarkis has worked with Asian growers in the Central Valley to help them develop quality control and marketing skills. He is a founding member of the Armenian Technology Group in Fresno and has worked on projects that included reviving the honey industry in Nagorno-Karabakh, a separatist region of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Sarabian, a licensed pest control advisor, has also worked as a soil conservationist and an agricultural consultant in countries that include Mexico, Chile, South Africa, Kenya, Moldova, Jordan, Venezuela and Morocco.

Sarkis Sarabian exemplifies great principle and integrity. He is a role model for all of us, especially our Valley's upcoming generation of agricultural professionals. It is with great pride that I congratulate him for receiving this distinguished award and for all that he does on behalf of the industry.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL BAILEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Bailey of Kansas City, Missouri. Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Bailey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY CLASS OF 1957 ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the proud service of the United States Naval Academy's class of 1957.

One of the noteworthy benefits of serving as a Member of Congress is the opportunity to meet with and nominate some of our Nation's best and brightest students for an appointment to one of our Nation's five service academies. Founded in 1845, the United States Naval Academy is not only a training ground for our Nation's naval leaders, but also one of the most prestigious academic institutions in the country.

Madam Speaker, the class of 1957 consisted of 848 members, 21 who went on to achieve the rank of admiral or general. Of those graduates, 568 were commissioned in the Navy with 160 attending naval flight school; 203 served on Navy destroyers; 42 on auxiliary ships; and 94 on capital ships, including aircraft carriers. Another 104 graduates of the class served in naval submarines. The remaining graduates went on to serve in other branches of the military, including 64 who went on to join the Marine Corps and 206 who were commissioned into the Air Force.

Madam Speaker, of the 848 members of the class of 1957, 534 members served 20 years or more in their respective military branch. After their service was completed, 169 classmates went on to become executive officers of their respective businesses with 33 serving as CEO. Notable classmates include Huntsville, Alabama resident Fritz Steiner; Apollo astronaut Charlie Duke; Brad Parkinson, who developed the global positioning system (GPS); and Lee Hyatt, a Vietnam prisoner of war who survived 2,050 days of captivity in North Vietnam.

Madam Speaker, these men have proudly served their country and their community for over a half-century. On October 27, 2007, the surviving members from this class are meeting to celebrate their 50th anniversary. It is my privilege to rise today to congratulate these outstanding individuals for their devotion to duty, significant accomplishments, and unswerving dedication to the United States.

HONORING ALVIN W. SMUZYSKI

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative JIM MORAN, I rise today to recognize Alvin W. Smuzynski, Jr., recently retired President and Chief Executive Officer of Wesley Housing Development Corporation of Northern Virginia.

We are all aware of the national affordable housing problem that is especially acute in Washington and other metropolitan areas. Low and moderate rental properties are out of reach for scores of our most vulnerable citizens. For nearly three decades, Mr. Smuzynski used his time and talent to increase affordable housing in northern Virginia—as a Commissioner on the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority; as a volunteer for Wesley Housing Development Corporation; as a Board member; Board Chairman; and as President/CEO of Wesley Housing.

True to its mission, Wesley Housing, under Mr. Smuzynski's leadership for the last 9 years, pioneered affordable housing solutions that have stabilized and strengthened families, neighborhoods, and entire communities throughout northern Virginia. During his tenure as President/CEO, more than half of the organization's 1,267 units were built or acquired. Under his leadership, Wesley Housing achieved the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers' (HAND) 2006 Developer of the Year Award and Leadership Fairfax's Regional Leadership Award.

Mr. Smuzynski forged ahead on innovative projects. He built northern Virginia's only bar-

rier-free apartment community for low-income, severely physically disabled individuals—the 22-unit Coppermine Place I in Herndon—selected as HAND's 2007 Best Project in northern Virginia. The project was awarded the first Accessible Design Award by the Coalition for Housing Opportunities In the Community for Everyone, Inc. (CHOICE).

In 1999, Mr. Smuzynski completed Wesley Agape House, a 12-unit apartment house for individuals and children living with HIV/AIDS—the first project of this type in northern Virginia. Mr. Smuzynski's advocacy efforts were vital to establishing a non-competitive tax credit pool for preservation projects in northern Virginia. In 2005, his work with the Washington Metro Bankers' northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance resulted in the establishment of Fairfax County's innovative "Penny for Housing Fund." The trust fund supports preservation and development of affordable housing. Even in retirement, he continues to work with other counties in northern Virginia to establish affordable housing programs and funding sources. For these efforts, Mr. Smuzynski was inducted into the Virginia Housing Coalition's Affordable Housing Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Alvin Smuzynski for his selfless commitment to meeting his community's needs. His legacy of growth, perseverance, and innovation was built on his dedication to balancing northern Virginia's housing needs. I call upon my colleagues to join me on commending him for his past success and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS WILSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chris Wilson of Kansas City, Missouri. Chris is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chris has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chris has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chris Wilson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today on behalf of New Ebenezer Baptist Church. This beacon of hope in

Florence, South Carolina has provided faith and fellowship for its congregation for 100 years.

The rich history of this Florence religious institution began on August 5, 1907. The land for the church was donated by the late Deacon James Norwood, and New Ebenezer has stood on this same site for a century. In the early years, the church was served by Reverends A.J. Streater, Bass, T.T. Tucker, Sasser, and D.J. Johnson.

In 1927, Reverend J.L. Brooks became the pastor of New Ebenezer and served as its spiritual leader until 1941. He was succeeded by Reverend W.A. Johnson, who grew the church spiritually and financially. Under his leadership, the present block structure was constructed in 1949. Ten years later, Reverend E.D. Dixon took over the helm of the church and succeeded in increasing the membership and paying off the church's mortgage.

Dr. John Julius Abney became the minister of New Ebenezer in 1963. He oversaw a tremendous time in the church's history. In his first year, a block hut was added to the church. His vision for the church's expansion was further realized with the addition of new properties and the expansion and renovation of the exterior and interior of the main sanctuary. These changes included the addition of a vestibule, the erection of the education building, the cornerstone laying for the main sanctuary, and renovations of the parsonage. It was in 1966, under Dr. Abney's leadership that the church received its first charter from the State designating it officially as New Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Dr. Abney's tenure of extraordinary change was followed by the service of Dr. William Edward Chancy who also presided over significant growth of the church in both membership and its footprint. Under Reverend Chancy's oversight, properties adjacent to the church were purchased, the parking area was paved, and a new bus was purchased. Perhaps the largest growth in the ministry of the church came with the addition of a child care center on site.

In 1981, Reverend Lewis P. Graham became the leader of the church in which he was raised. This son of the church led the congregation to install a new heating and air conditioning system, purchase a new piano and organ, and pay off the church bus.

Leadership of New Ebenezer fell to the church's officers from December 1988 to October 1989, and they continued to improve the church and its surroundings. Under their leadership, the Missionary Department undertook the project of converting the ladies lounge into a church library. Deacon Hosea Quillen, Sr. and his son donated most of the labor for this effort. The church officers also erected a new steeple and installed a new roof on the main sanctuary. Aluminum siding and painting was done to the exterior of the sanctuary and education building.

In October 1989, Reverend James E. Rutledge was called from East Orange, New Jersey to lead New Ebenezer. Under his leadership, Reverend Rutledge, new stained glass windows were installed, carpet was replaced and the choir loft was moved to the rear of the pulpit. The church was painted inside and out.

In 1993, Reverend Norman Gamble was called to serve as pastor of New Ebenezer Baptist Church and remains its pastor today. His service has involved great changes at the

church. He has increased the membership, established an Education Fund, and purchased two minivans, video equipment and computers. Part of his legacy includes the videotaping of worship services and outreach ministries to help the church reach the broader community. This church has served as a source of spiritual strength and service to others throughout its long history. It is a fixture in the Florence community and has been an integral part of countless lives over the years.

Madam Speaker, I commend Reverend Gamble and the congregation of New Ebenezer Baptist Church for their tremendous contributions to the faith community, and invite you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating New Ebenezer Baptist Church of Florence, South Carolina on its 100th anniversary.

HONORING MR. MERLON E.
WIGGIN, PH.D., M.E.

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Dr. Merlon Wiggin, an accomplished and exemplary resident of the first district of New York.

Dr. Merlon Wiggin is a proud Long Island native and the founder of East End Lighthouses, Inc. a chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation. The organization's mission is to encourage the historic preservation and restoration of lighthouses, lightship, and life-saving station artifacts throughout America. The East End branch, in particular, works to preserve and restore the offshore lighthouses of Southold Town.

Dr. Wiggin is an authority on boating and maritime safety. A graduate of the University of Maine, with a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, Merlon's expertise and passion for the sea is what led him to initiate the conversion of the former Greenport Railroad Station into a maritime museum. He has authored numerous historical articles and booklets on local lighthouses and is on the writing staff of Long Island Boating World and Peconic Bay Shopper magazines.

Among a long list of accomplishments, Dr. Wiggin has served as Director of engineering at Presque Isle Air Force Base and chief of engineering at Plum Island Animal Disease Research Center. He also worked with NASA on its "Moon Lab" during the Apollo space missions. Dr. Wiggin is currently the president of "Peconic Associates", a local maritime consulting firm, and "Isocon Ltd", an internationally recognized research laboratory and biological containment consulting firm.

In his free time, Merlon is an avid sailor and is known to race his 30 foot sloop, "Albion" on local waters. He and his wife Isabelle reside in East Marion, NY. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Dr. Merlon Wiggin for his many enduring contributions to Long Island, New York, and this great Nation. I wish him and his family the absolute best for the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARC HUBER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Marc Huber of Kansas City, Missouri. Marc is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Marc has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Marc has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Marc Huber for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on October 24, 2007, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall votes No. 998, a motion ordering the previous question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 505, and 999, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 505) to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity.

If present, I would have voted "aye" on both measures.

HONORING MARY McLOUGHLIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, a community is an aggregate of its residents, but its quality of life is determined by the dedication of those who devote themselves to the welfare of their community.

Mary McLoughlin is such a person, and her dedication is the occasion for special recognition by the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center at a dinner honoring her tonight.

She is a co-founder of that organization and is almost single-handedly responsible for acquiring a community center. In 1972 she heard that the police precinct was leaving its building and she began a campaign to get the building for use by the community.

Almost three years later, KHCC acquired the building and she, with Patricia Burns and

Janet Athanasidy, cleaned the floors; and took out the debris as part of the extensive renovation needed.

She envisioned a Center modeled after the great early New York settlement houses, providing educational, recreational and cultural activities for all community residents.

In 1975 the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center opened its doors with a Teen Program as well as a Head Start Program. Mary McLoughlin's continuing dedication is evident as today the center provides a multitude of programs to individuals of all ages including: early childhood educational, health and nutrition services, after school recreation and literacy, College Prep and financial aid, services to individuals with developmental disabilities, and civics classes, child sexual abuse treatment and prevention, parent and child advocacy, and case management services to prevent foster care placement, to cite a few.

She is a mother of eight, but has spread her caring over the community, improving the lives of thousands. The KHCC as the largest employer in the community continues to address the needs of the changing community.

She has been, and remains, a God-send to the Kingsbridge community. I sincerely thank her for all that she has done and continues to do for the people of this community. She is an inspiration to all.

CONGRATULATING THE TEXAS
BRAHMAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Texas Brahmas Hockey team on their first season in the city of North Richland Hills. The Texas Brahmas are returning to the ice this year to start their tenth season at the NYTEX Sports Centre in North Richland Hills on Saturday, October 27, 2007 against their Northeast Rival, the Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs.

The NYTEX Sports Centre has been revamped and reopened in great anticipation for the upcoming hockey season. The new home to the Texas Brahmas sits in the beautiful city of North Richland Hills, Texas. Under the head coach Dan Wildfong, the Brahmas look to continue their winning tradition this season.

I offer my congratulations to Mayor Oscar Trevino, the North Richland Hills City Council, and their Economic Development Department for bringing yet another economic victory to their fine city. The atmosphere that accompanies the Brahmas will further show that North Richland Hills is the City of Choice to Live, Work and Play.

I am very proud to represent such a victorious team in my District. I wish the Texas Brahmas great luck in their upcoming season in North Richland Hills, and congratulate their winning spirit. Their persistence, teamwork, dedication, and commitment should serve as a source of entertainment through their competitive spirit that is now a part of North Richland Hills and 26th District.

COMMENDING FIRST RESPONDERS
BATTLING WILDFIRES IN SOUTH-
ERN CALIFORNIA

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the courageous efforts of numerous first responders currently battling wildfires in Southern California. Today, these dangerous fires stretch over more than 400,000 acres and have forced the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of local residents from their homes.

As we've seen on national television, the tragedy unfolding in Southern California is of epic proportions; yet the many first responders charged with saving life and limb have performed magnificently since the initial flames. Taking on these blazes from all angles, firefighters are ensuring the safety of Californians while fighting to protect their property and homes. The courage of these first responders is truly exemplary.

As Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee's Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response Subcommittee, I am pleased to see that these brave firefighters, police officers, and paramedics are being aided in their efforts by FEMA, the National Guard, and other elements of the Department of Defense.

Exacerbated by drought conditions and the fierce Santa Ana winds, these fires are some of the most menacing in American history. Like every American, I am thankful for the selfless efforts of all first responders, who perform so bravely in harrowing circumstances, especially those currently battling the wildfires in Southern California.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE
VISIT OF MR. ALEXIS GALANOS,
MAYOR OF FAMAGUSTA, CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as a co-chair and co-founder of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I want to welcome Mr. Alexis Galanos, mayor of Famagusta, Cyprus, to Washington, DC. Mr. Galanos has an important message to share with those of us in Congress about how his city became a "ghost town" when Cyprus was invaded in 1974 by Turkey. Famagusta is a symbol of a divided Cyprus and a crystallization of the situation there since the invasion.

Famagusta was a thriving port city in Cyprus until 1974. Its industrial sector supplied vital jobs to the nearby population, and it was an important tourist destination. In 1973, 88.9 percent of all imports and 73.6 percent of all exports went through Famagusta.

Tragically, a few short weeks after Turkey invaded Cyprus, Famagusta was bombed relentlessly by Turkish troops. Greek Cypriots fled in terror, and the city was sealed off with barbed wire fences by Turkish forces. Ultimately, 45,000 citizens of Famagusta became refugees in their own country, losing their land, businesses, homes, and neighbors.

As a result of the Turkish invasion and occupation, 160,000 Greek Cypriots, amounting to 70 percent of the population of the occupied area and over a quarter of the total population, were forcibly expelled from their homes and approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed. More than 1,400 Greek Cypriots, including four Americans of Cypriot descent, remain missing and unaccounted for since the Turkish invasion. Sadly, since the invasion, churches, monasteries, and cultural artifacts have been destroyed, looted, vandalized, and illegally excavated. Many of these priceless items have been sold on the black market. Today, thirty-three years later, Turkey continues forcibly to occupy more than one-third of Cyprus with more than 43,000 Turkish troops. It is time for Turkey to remove its troops from the island so that Cyprus can move forward as one nation.

Just this month, we passed legislation introduced by my fellow co-chair, Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, which expresses the strong support of the House of Representatives for the implementation of the July 8, 2006, UN-brokered agreement between President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus. I believe that passage of this resolution will be a positive influence in moving this process forward in preparation for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the unification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. Additionally, I have introduced H. Res. 407, which expresses the strong support of the House of Representatives for the positive actions by the Republic of Cyprus aimed at opening additional crossing points along the cease-fire line, thereby contributing to efforts for the reunification of the island.

The people of Cyprus, and Famagusta, deserve a unified and democratic country, and I remain hopeful that a peaceful settlement will be found so that the division of Cyprus will come to an end.

Once again, I want to acknowledge Mayor Galanos for being a tireless advocate on behalf of the exiled citizens of Famagusta

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF ALVIN W. SMUZYSKI

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Representative TOM DAVIS, my distinguished colleague from Virginia, to recognize the accomplishments of Alvin W. Smuzynski Jr., upon his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Wesley Housing Development Corporation of Northern Virginia.

Dedicated to increasing affordable housing in Northern Virginia, Mr. Smuzynski served as Commissioner on the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and as a Board member, Board Chairman, and President and CEO of Wesley Housing. Having spent nearly three decades expanding affordable housing, making rental properties available to low and moderate-income families in the metropolitan area was always at the top of Mr. Smuzynski's agenda.

Mr. Smuzynski led Wesley Housing admirably; he was a pioneer dedicated to ensuring

that entire communities throughout Northern Virginia would have the opportunity to acquire decent, affordable housing. During his tenure as President and CEO, more than half of the organization's 1,267 units were built or acquired. Under his leadership, Wesley Housing achieved the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers' (HAND) 2006 Developer of the Year Award and Leadership Fairfax's Regional Leadership Award.

In 1999, under the direction of Mr. Smuzynski, the Wesley Agape House was completed. This 12-unit apartment house for individuals and children living with HIV/AIDS was the first project of this type in Northern Virginia. His advocacy efforts were essential to establishing a non-competitive tax credit pool for preservation projects in Northern Virginia. In 2005, his work with the Washington Metro Bankers' Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance resulted in the establishment of Fairfax County's innovative "Penny for Housing Fund." The trust fund supports preservation and development of affordable housing.

Always looking to lead the way, Mr. Smuzynski forged ahead on innovative projects. He built Northern Virginia's only barrier-free apartment community for low-income, severely physically disabled individuals—the 22-unit Coppermine Place I in Herndon. This award winning apartment community was selected as HAND's 2007 Best Project in Northern Virginia and the Accessible Design Award by the Coalition for Housing Opportunities in the Community for Everyone, Inc. (CHOICE) award.

Truly, Mr. Smuzynski's career has left behind a legacy of perseverance, innovation and numerous successes. He has earned the reputation over the years of being the leader in providing affordable housing, and will long be remembered for his dedication and commitment to Virginians. I wish all the best to him and his family in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE MARIN CON-
SERVATION CORPS ON ITS 25TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the Marin Conservation Corps on its 25th anniversary of helping young people to a brighter future by providing jobs and learning opportunities, at the same time protecting and conserving our natural resources.

Marin Conservation Corps began more than 25 years ago when founder Richard Hammond was out jogging along one of the many gorgeous trails of the Marin Headlands. The father of teenage sons at the time, he had been seeking something productive to keep them occupied during summer vacation and came up with the idea to combine trail maintenance with young people's need for work. But it wasn't until devastating floods hit Marin in 1982 that the corps took shape.

The first local conservation corps in the country, MCC literally blazed the trail for others to follow. Workers have put in more than three million hours to maintain and conserve Marin County's 150,000 acres of public land. In association with AmeriCorps, MCC has

partnered with the National Park Service to create a one-on-one mentoring program. MCC also provides young people with summer jobs through a combination of outdoor education, community service and recreational activities through its Project ReGeneration.

Under the leadership of Marilee Eckert since 1992, the nonprofit has grown to provide year-round employment to 116 people, operating under a budget of more than \$5 million and helping more than 3,000 young men and women gain job skills along with an education. Marilee also holds leadership roles in many local and national organizations. Her efforts have earned her recognition and awards from the county and the Sierra Club, as well as the gratitude of the many corps members who have benefited from her hard work.

Many of those who have benefited come from under-served populations. One such corpsman is Matthew Rainey, a 21-year-old convicted felon. "I didn't have an opportunity to work anywhere else," he says. "Honestly, I was living in my car, didn't have anything going for myself, but every single day, I would come to work."

Because of MCC, Rainey has earned his GED, saved enough to rent an apartment, and is considering following the trade he learned through his work at MCC.

"He has so totally blossomed," notes Deborah Schoenbaum, MCC's deputy director. "He has won just about every award you can get in the corps. It's been a life-changing experience for him."

Working at MCC has been a life-changing experience for many others, as well. An average of 300 young people go through the various MCC programs each year. In fact, some of MCC's sponsors and greatest supporters were previously in the corps program.

Corpsmembers not only arrive at work at 7 a.m. for a full day of work each day, but must put in 10 hours of education each week, as well. Marvin was one such young man willing to work this hard for a better future. Marvin came to the corps speaking absolutely no English, Schoenbaum remembers. "He now speaks English and has gotten a job with a top landscaping firm because he went through a landscaping program we have with College of Marin."

Such success stories, Madam Speaker, is why the Marin Conservation Corps deserves to be congratulated for its past 25 years of service. May it have an equally successful future.

THE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the Department of Energy (DOE) on the groundbreaking of their Research Support Facility (RSF) on October 30, 2007.

The Research Support Facility will be an important building for the DOE and NREL. The building will house several hundred DOE and NREL staff in over 200,000 usable square feet

without sacrificing high priority special spaces. The building will include shared spaces to assist in optimizing human performance, enhancing creativity and recruiting the workforce of tomorrow.

The RSF is designed to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) "Platinum" rating as defined by the U.S. Green Building Council. The building will be a shining example of sustainable high-performance design. It will demonstrate the integration of high performance design features and practices, showcase technology advances, and capture the public's imagination for renewable and energy efficient technologies.

Investing in and expanding the National Renewable Energy Laboratory is good for national security, good for the climate and good for jobs.

I am honored to have the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the future Research Support Facility in the 7th Congressional District.

CELEBRATING OXI DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to join the Hellenic-Americans and Philhellenes in my district and throughout the country in celebrating "OXI Day (No Day)," which falls on the 28th of October. This year marks the 67th anniversary of a very important day in Hellenic history, the day on which brave Greek patriots said "No" to fascism, "No" to injustice, and "No" to slavery. For those individuals who lived through that momentous period and their descendants, many of whom live in the 14th Congressional District of New York, "OXI Day" is more than a memory: it is the embodiment of Hellenism and its highest ideals.

At dawn on October 28, 1940, General Ionnis Metaxas was confronted with an ultimatum. An Italian ambassador delivered a message directly from General Mussolini demanding that Greece allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified "strategic locations" or face war. General Metaxas simply replied "No!" and committed the brave people of Greece to resistance against Axis oppression. With level-headed determination and steadfast resolve, the citizenry of Greece mobilized. Men went calmly to their closets and retrieved their military uniforms and weapons. Women went about their necessary tasks, and the children assisted as they were able.

On OXI Day, the people of Greece chose the harder path, the path of resistance. That brave generation of Hellenes refused to submit to oppression even at the cost of their homes, their land, and their lives. Theirs was an act of self-sacrifice that clearly proclaimed the humanitarian ideals of their Orthodox Christian faith and their ethnic heritage. The Greeks' brave defense of their land was a crucial turning point in the Axis eastern advances. Dogged resistance by Greek patriots weakened Axis morale and derailed the Nazi war effort by delaying the eventual attack on Soviet Union. The Greeks' sacrifice will forever

be remembered and honored by the free nations of the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the heroes of OXI Day. In their brave words and deeds we see all of the highest virtues of Hellenic heritage: passion for justice, courage at a time of trial, unity in the midst of conflict, and willingness to sacrifice one's life for the good of others. On this day, we thank Greece for saying "OXI."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, I was not present for rollcall vote 996, final passage of H.R. 1483, the Celebrating America's Heritage Act. Had I been present for rollcall 996, I would have voted "aye."

REMARKS ON H.R. 1483, CELEBRATING AMERICA'S HERITAGE ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, yesterday I voted in favor of H.R. 1483, the Celebrating America's Heritage Act.

I am pleased to support this legislation which creates six new national heritage areas and reauthorizes nine additional heritage areas, including one in my home State of New Jersey.

Since 1988, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, stretching roughly 300 miles from Perth Amboy to Cape May and west along the Delaware Bay to Deepwater, has been successful in encouraging New Jersey residents and visitors alike to explore the State's coastal resources and culture.

For nearly 20 years, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail has played a key role in preventing overdevelopment of the Nation's most densely populated State. The trail has helped preserve a wide variety of natural resources and historical landmarks including bird sanctuaries, wildlife refuges and lighthouses. It has helped boost tourism and economic activity and has provided countless visitors with enjoyable and interesting opportunities for recreation.

Whether visiting the Nation's oldest operating lighthouse at Sandy Hook, canoeing on a fresh water creek in Double Trouble State Park, shopping at the 200-year-old fishing village of Belford, or taking in the view from Mount Mitchell, the highest point on the eastern seaboard, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail offers something for everyone to enjoy.

National Heritage Areas provide great opportunities for Americans to experience the history and culture of a particular State or region. My Central New Jersey district is home to the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area. This heritage area protects and promotes more than 250 historic

sites. On October 12, 2006, I was proud to see the Crossroads National Heritage Area signed into law by the President. I hope that with the passage of this bill and eventual signature of the President, many of my colleagues will get to experience similar pride with the creation of national heritage areas in their districts for the benefit of their constituents.

Many of these National Heritage Areas do not receive money from the Federal Government alone. The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, for example, receives only a third of its funding from the Federal Government. Our investments in National Heritage Areas are often matched by State and local governments as well as the private sector.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1483 will enable millions of Americans to visit and treasure heritage areas in their home State and across the Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF MY CO-
SPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 106, THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLU-
TION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I am opposed to genocide whenever and wherever it has occurred in history and I believe that we should never forget any atrocity that occurs anywhere, at any time. While I believe that the incidents that took place in Armenia were wrong and merit acknowledgement, I have decided to withdraw my sponsorship of H.R. 106, the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

Turkey is a strategic partner and one of our few friends in the Middle East. It allows us to use its air force base at Incirlik for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Turkey's leaders have said if this resolution passes, they will withdraw our military access to this base. Because the President has distanced or destroyed our relationships with many countries as a result of the war in Iraq, we should maintain and strengthen our rapport with the few allies we have, particularly in the Middle East.

However, there is a more important and fundamental reason that I have withdrawn my support. I can no longer support any resolution that condemns another country for its actions, while we here in the United States will not address and have not come to terms with the miscarriages of justice, the lack of equality, and the human rights violations that take place against our own citizens.

Our poor, our women, our less educated, our people of color, and others who are disadvantaged and disenfranchised across our great country—lauded as the “land of opportunity”—suffer daily from injustice and inequality. They lack access to affordable health care,

quality education, well-paying jobs, capital, and other items necessary to give them and their families a chance at achieving the American Dream. Most recently, the President chose to veto a bill that would provide access to health care to 10 million children of working class parents. This is simply inexcusable.

In the Bible, John 8:7 reads “let him who is without sin cast the first stone.” Here, in the United States, we are often quick to point out the faults and flaws of other countries, their leaders, and their citizens. However, before we criticize, chastise, and condemn them, we must first challenge our own imperfections, consider our own inadequacies, confront our own issues, and change our own behavior.

There are human rights violations taking place all across the world, from Sudan and Syria, to Bangladesh and Burma, to Nicaragua and Colombia. Simultaneously, there are unresolved human rights challenges here in America that we have not begun to tackle.

I was always taught to take care of home first. I believe that America can and should be a force for change. As a world leader, we not only have the power, but we also have the responsibility, to make a positive difference in the lives of others—here at home and in countries around the world. However, before we point the finger at anyone else, we must take a deeper, closer look at the problems that plague our cities, our communities, and our country and work to change the lives of our citizens for the better.

This resolution, at this time, could undermine the efforts of the United States to prevent the Turkish military from launching an attack inside Iraq; it could create a logistical nightmare for our military women and men in Iraq and Afghanistan. If we have strained relations with Turkey, the largest Muslim ally we have in the Middle East, further damage to the standing of the United States in the Islamic world would be the immediate result.

This is the right bill, but this is the wrong time. America must be what we want to see for the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING
OF COOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the citizens of Coosa County, Alabama, who on this Saturday, October 27, will celebrate their county's 175th anniversary.

On December 18, 1832, the Alabama Legislature established Coosa County from lands acquired under the Creek Indian Treaty of Cusseta. The October 24th celebration will take place in the county seat of Rockford,

and will feature organizations from around the county. In addition to a live band and county history lecture, each of the county's cities and towns will present a welcome address.

I am pleased to recognize the citizens of Coosa County today for reaching this important milestone in the history of their county, and in the history of our great State.

RECOGNIZING FAMAGUSTA,
CYPRUS AS A GHOST CITY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I met with Mr. Alexis Galanos, Mayor of Famagusta, Cyprus to discuss the current situation he and his constituents face every day.

In 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, running residents of Famagusta out of their town and their homes in fear. Since then, Famagustians have been unable to return to their city in the occupied area, and the city itself remains a ghost town.

Prior to the invasion, Famagusta was a bustling tourist destination and an economic dynamo. The hotel and construction industries were booming, the harbor had been widened to further contribute to its economic activity, and the rich and fertile mainland easily supported production of the potato crop.

This all changed with the invasion of Turkish soldiers. Turkish troops drove the people of Famagusta out of their town and sealed it off with barbed wire. This is how the situation remains today, 33 years later. 45,000 residents of Famagusta have become refugees in their own country; they lost their land, their homes, their property, their businesses, their livelihoods, and for some, their lives. Since the Turkish invasion, churches, cathedrals, monasteries, and the cultural heritage have been subject to looting, vandalism, destruction, and theft.

In 2003, partial lifting of movement restrictions by the occupying regime allowed some displaced Greek Cypriots to visit their old homes, but they are still denied the right to return to where they were born and raised. Property that was once in the hands of Greek Cypriots has been unlawfully distributed to illegal settlers from Turkey, and unprecedented illegal construction is taking place on land that technically belongs to Greek Cypriots.

The former residents of Famagusta worked very hard to make a living. Families spent decades paving the way for the well-being of future generations, but they were forced to start over from square one.

The people of Famagusta, like other Greek Cypriot refugees, have a burning desire, and a right, to return to their homes. I am pleased that Mayor Galanos was able to visit Washington to share the story of Famagusta, Europe's Ghost Town.